

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /074 W

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R 031600Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2661

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS, AG, MO

SUBJ: VIEWS OF ALGERIAN MILITARY ATTACHE FROM RABAT

1. ALGERIAN MILITARY ATTACHE RABAT, LT. COL. MOHAMED BOUTELLA, WHO OLD ACQUAINTANCE, CALLED ON ME JULY 3 TO INQUIRE ABOUT PSSOIBILITY SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIS YOUNGEST SON TO STUDY IN UNITED STATES. I TOOK OCCASION TO ASK HIM ABOUT SITUATION IN SPANISH SAHARA. HE SAID IT WAS SERIOUS AND ASKED FOR MY VIEWS. I SAID WE WERE NEUTRAL IN THIS DISPUTE AND OUR ONLY INTEREST WAS THAT OUR FRIENDS FIND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD SAME THING BY AMBASSADOR NEUMANN AND HE PERSONALLY WAS CONVINCED IT WAS FRENCH AND SENEGALESE, NOT AMERICANS, WHO BEHIND MOROCCANS. FRENCH AND SENEGALESE WANTED MAINTAIN LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS ALONG ATLANTIC COAST. SO MUCH FOR GEOPOLITCS.

2. I THEN ASKED HIM WHAT ALGERIAN POLICY WAS AND WHAT SORT OF SOLUTION ALGERIANS ENVISAGED. HE SAID BOUMEDIENE AND OTHERS HAD MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR ALGERIA HAD NO TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS. TO HAVE THEM WOULD CONTRADICT ALL OF THE PRINCIPLES THEY STOOD FOR  
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WITH REGARD TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND ANTI-COLONIALISM.

THEY WOULD, OF COURSE, LIKE A CORRIDOR TO THE ATLANTIC, BUT WERE NOT ABOUT TO SEIZE ONE. THEY WANTED A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTION, BUT UNFORTUNATELY MAURITANIANS AND MOROCCANS BETWEEN THEM HAD REACHED SECRET AGREEMENT TO PARTITION TERRITORY. THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN RATIFIED AT RABAT SUMMIT LAST FALL. ALGERIANS HAD BEEN VERY UPSET BY THIS DEVELOPMENT, WHICH IGNORED PRIOR TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT THAT ALGERIA WAS AN INTERESTED PARTY. BOUMEDIENE HAD ASKED WHY HE HAD BEEN EXCLUDED, AND HAD REACTED. AMICABLE SETTLEMENT WAS STILL POSSIBLE, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT.

3. COMMENT: DO NOT KNOW HOW WELL BOUTELLA IS PLUGGED IN, BUT IRRITATION AT MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN ALLEGED NON-OBSERVANCE OF EARLIER AGREEMENT MAY WELL BE FACTOR IN CURRENT ALGERIAN BEHAVIOR.  
PARKER

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